



Smallwood News—'Excellence Through Enjoyment'

Website address: www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk

01477 500362

12th January

Welcome back,

I hope you all had relaxing holidays and are ready for the challenges of a new term in school. It's amazing how quickly we get back into the swing of things. I am delighted to see how smartly dressed the children are. School uniform is very important, it gives children a sense of identity and a pride in a shared community. Learning the importance of dressing smartly and presenting yourself is a key part of why we have a school uniform. It's why I also I encourage children to make eye contact and say good morning when I greet them in the morning. Being confident to greet others and demonstrate that you have good manners and pride in yourself and your appearance are invaluable life skills. Whether we like it or not first impressions matter. So that regular practise in dressing smartly and greeting others politely will hopefully be making a big difference and helping our children towards future success.



We will have our first **Smallwood Steps** next Monday 16th, please can all juniors come to school in their PE kit. Next week we will be beginning to look at where children have reached and challenging them on to new destinations so please make sure that their record sheets are in school.

As always this term is jam packed with exciting events, on Tuesday all of the juniors will be going to Alsager High in the morning to take part in another practise for Sing Fest, 'Broadway to Motown'. This is a big local schools event where all of the children are brought together to sing in a massed choir which will be performing at Crewe Lyceum in March. It's an amazing opportunity to be part of a big group performance and sing on a professional stage.



On Friday 19th at 2.30, Ash class will be leading our worship in Church. These class led services have allowed children to be actively involved in planning and leading a prayer service and are another fantastic opportunity for them to become more confident public speakers.

The clubs letter has gone out this week. Clubs will not begin until the week beginning 22.1.18, (except Music Club which has already started on Tuesday and ASM which starts next Monday 15th) this will give parents wishing to make bookings with Coppice plenty of time. From now on we will try to follow this system each term. Please note there will be no school staff led clubs the week of parents evening, even if the club is not on one of the parents evening nights as staff will need time to prepare for their meetings. We will try to avoid all other last minute cancellation of clubs although we cannot guarantee this as we are always reliant on the availability of another staff member to step in.

Please remember that your child's Snapshot report for the Autumn Term is now available. All parents and carers were given log in details and their password at parents evening in October. If you have mislaid your password please come into the office and collect a new one. We will not send these home with children as we need to ensure that they definitely reach you and do not go astray due to data protection requirements.



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I would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents and carers who have been so patient and helpful during our difficulties in parking on Wednesday and Thursday. We were all deeply saddened by the death of Len Ford who has been a greatly valued contributor to the life of this school and the local community. His funeral gave us all a chance to offer our respects and thanks for all he had done for us. He will be greatly missed.

Caroline Mander
Head teacher

Beat the Bugs

If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea they must be kept off for a minimum of 48 hours.



We have had a number of children who have returned to school before the 48 hour, www.nhs.uk, recommended period. Please do not send them back until they have had a clear 48 hours.

Please remember to ring into school before 9.15am if your child is absent for any reason, even a last minute appointment.



Don't be late!

As you are aware we now start our mornings with the gate opening at 8:40 and children going straight into class in-



stead of onto the playground. This allows for a calmer and more supportive start to your child's day. Once in class, children have time to chat with their teacher, practise spellings, handwriting and reading and take part in read and respond activities. The gate will close at 9:00am as usual and all late arrivals will need to enter via the main door and be signed in. Late arrivals unsettle the class and disrupts the start of the day, and has been proven to have a big effect on children's academic progress, children arriving after registers close at 9.10am will receive a late mark.

Pick Up after Clubs.

Please also be on time for pick up after clubs, the staff use their time after clubs to prepare for the next day and mark work.